

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 28, 2002 LB 588

Nebraska. I think over the long term, and I think we ought to be looking out over the next...the whole century, Senator Chambers, not just the next 10 years. We ought to be trying to look out over the next...next 50 or 100 years, and I doubt if anybody will be here for the year 3000 that are here now. I don't know whether you want to take bets on that or not. But...(laugh)...but the issue is, if it serves no purpose in the statute, I could also say, so what does it hurt to have it in there? It indicates to someone that the state of Nebraska is recognizing a problem that we have. And I don't know where else it is in statute that we recognize this problem. And we know we have the fish hook theory, which is on the Platte Valley, on the Interstate 80. But what about some of the rural areas? That...we have large egg operations now. We have a Co-op packing plant going in. Goodness knows what can come out of somebody's fertile brain out there somewhere if they just have a seed of idea they can carry forward. In addition, there are ethanol plants. This says that the state of Nebraska via the University of Nebraska is there to help, and recognizes that we need to do some things. I don't see what's wrong with that. Where...I cannot see a down side to that, other than having a few extra words in the statutes. And like I said, I'm going to have a Select File amendment, just suggested to me this morning by someone, and we're going to try to draft that. So there is some leadership asserted in this...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...very message. So there is some recognition that the expertise is there. We've got a whole university system, especially one in agriculture, that's recognized nationwide, if not worldwide. And certainly putting that focus in this kind of an initiative, has got to be a help. And it looks like, to me, it...I'm not even worried about the commitment. I want to talk to Senator Beutler about that General Funds. But if there was something comes in here in another year, that 25 or 30 can agree on, what is wrong with putting a few dollars into that sometime? I...where there's no binding...I've read this again, I see no binding of General Funds in this, any more than we have it in here for all of the hundreds of other things that we do. And when somebody me...I